

The following are questions received 5/28/98, and the responses thereto. The receipt of these questions does not delay the closing date for receipt of proposals.

QUESTION 1: What is the overall objective of this solicitation?

RESPONSE: To award multiple indefinite quantity contracts for support at DoD Facilities throughout CONUS, and to compete task orders for specific functions required.

QUESTION 2: What work is in the scope of this contract?

RESPONSE: The solicitation refers firms to the web site www.drms.dla.mil where they can access publications that show the type of work accomplished at DRMOs, and the solicitation states that work in Battle Creek would be office work.

QUESTION 3: What work currently performed by DRMS employees is outside the scope of this work?

RESPONSE: Although we do not expect this to be used for A-76 actions, the A-76 OMB Circular, OFPP guidance, and FAR Part 7 list some work that is inherent to Government employees only. The contracting officer's decision on these matters would be made on a case-by-case basis.

QUESTION 4: Will the labor requested be used for temporary needs during peak performance levels or current employee absences?

RESPONSE: At the present time, we cannot guess WHY the DoD facilities would require assistance. DRMS is experimenting with a number of ways to streamline and build efficiencies into our processes. This contract is a vehicle that may be suitable to assist in this endeavor. This contract is not intended to be a direct labor contract. Contract requirements are expected to be reflected in a performance work statement. Whether the labor requirements will be for peak performance levels to meet temporary needs or some other reason cannot be determined at this time. One purpose that has been guessed at is that 49 DRMOs are scheduled for closure. It would not be reasonable to assume ALL employees will stay at the DRMO until the final day. They would most likely be seeking (and perhaps finding) employment elsewhere.

QUESTION 5: Will the solicitation be used for permanent replacement of existing employees?

RESPONSE: At the present time, we cannot guess WHY the DoD facilities would require assistance. This contract is not intended to be for OMB A-76 actions.

QUESTION 6: Will the solicitation be used to provide labor at the closing DRMOs to perform work that is currently being done by DRMS employees.

RESPONSE: See response to question 4.

QUESTION 7: Will all or some of the services at a closing DRMO be contracted out under this solicitation?

RESPONSE: At the present time, we cannot guess why the DoD facilities would require assistance.

QUESTION 8: How will the work that is currently being done at a closing DRMO get accomplished after closure?

RESPONSE: This question is not relevant to the instant solicitation. Please contact the Public Affairs Office at DRMS for a response to this question. The points of contact are listed at the web site, under Public Affairs.

QUESTION 9: Will all or some of the services at a DRMO that is not slated to be closed be purchased from this solicitation?

RESPONSE: See response to Question 7.

QUESTION 10: How will the Government determine if it will subcontract work or perform it with their own employees?

RESPONSE: This will be a management decision on a case-by-case basis. This question is not germane to the instant solicitation.

QUESTION 11: Why did you reference the 49 DRMOs that will be closing?

RESPONSE: To provide background information. The zones list the sites where DRMOs are located. Some of these locations are slated for closure, before the end of the contract period.

QUESTION 12: Is there any organizational conflicts of interest that apply to this solicitation?

RESPONSE: This will have to be considered with each task order proposal, on a case by case basis.

QUESTION 13: What are the performance time frames that apply? How soon after an order is issued must we provide labor?

RESPONSE: See response to question 12.

QUESTION 14: What is the anticipated length of time an employee will be needed? Several years, months, or days?

RESPONSE: The task orders will be based on a performance work statement for whatever length of time the requestor needs. DRMS does not anticipate asking for an employee, or 5 employees, or 10 employees. We anticipate that we will require services to accomplish a task, and the firm's will determine from historic workload data how many employees of various categories will be required.

QUESTION 15: Will holiday, sick leave, and vacation pay be a direct charge tot he government or does it need to be covered in the mark up?

RESPONSE: Holidays, sick and vacation leave are part of the wage determinations and will need to be covered by the price proposal percentage rate.

QUESTION 16: Will the local DRMO management train employees and manage them?

RESPONSE: DRMS does not have the authority to contract for personal services, and therefore cannot supervise contractor employees. The solicitation states that associated management would be required. Any training that is needed beyond a normal statement of work to accomplish a task may be provided by the Government, but this would be stated in the work statement at the time the task order is competed.

QUESTION 17: What training is required for each class of employee? Who pays for the training?

RESPONSE: See response to question 16.

QUESTION 18: Can contractor employees attend DRMO training classes, and what fee if any would be charged?

RESPONSE: See response to question 16.

QUESTION 19: Please list specific job duties for each labor category listed in the solicitation.

RESPONSE: Please see response to question 14. DRMS will not tell firms what their employee's tasks will be. We will provide a DoL Wage Determination with the classes of employees we estimate will be required. If we do not provide the appropriate classes of

employees for the way a firm will accomplish the work statement, the firm will have to request a wage determination for the appropriate category.

QUESTION 20: What reports and documentation must be provided to the government?

RESPONSE: Any deliverables or services required will be stated on specific task order proposal requests, in the performance work statement.

QUESTION 21: Will the contractor be required to manage DRMO employees.

RESPONSE: No

QUESTION 22: Do you intent to utilize this solicitation to procure temporary labor only?

RESPONSE: Please see response to question 7 and 14.

QUESTION 23: What documentation will needed to be provided for payment?

RESPONSE: Please see response to question 20. Also see 52.212-4 FAR Clause.

QUESTION 24: What will be the contractor s responsibility to the base they are operating at or to any other tenants?

RESPONSE: Please see the response to question 5 and question 20.

QUESTION 25: Will a COR be present during all of the contractor s performance?

RESPONSE: This information will be determined on a case-by-case basis. There most likely will be a COR on the site.

QUESTION 26: What type of work do you consider to be relevant past performance?

RESPONSE: The solicitation referred firms to the web site that has publications regarding the work that is accomplished at the DRMOs. This will provide information on what is relevant. The task orders will have more specific information in the form of a performance work statement.

QUESTION 27: Will awarded task orders be firm fixed price or time and material?

RESPONSE: At this time, we anticipate only firm fixed price task orders.

QUESTION 28: Can an awarded contractor choose not to propose on a particular task order?

RESPONSE: Yes. However, all firms will be guaranteed a minimum, and the Government will expect firms to provide services for this money.

QUESTION 29: Give five examples of a typical statement of work for a task order.

RESPONSE: This is the first contract of this type, and we have no samples at this time. However, it is not inconceivable that it may be to demilitarize property at a site, or to sort property at a site.

QUESTION 30: What is the length of time a task order will be issued for?

RESPONSE: See response to question 14.

QUESTION 31: Can the Government issue a task order for a specific number of labor hours without negotiation with the contractor? Will task orders ever be issued unilaterally by the Government?

RESPONSE: We anticipate issuing task orders based on a performance work statement, and will require pricing from firms. The Government is guaranteeing a minimum to each firm, so we anticipate each firm will be required to perform to earn the minimum.

QUESTION 32: Can call orders be issued against a task order?

RESPONSE: While this is allowed under the regulations, we do not at this time know whether a specific requirement will need call orders.

QUESTION 33: If only one contract is awarded in a group will the task order be issued non-competitively?

RESPONSE: The basic contracts are competed, therefore the task orders are considered competed. We expect to have more than one contract per group.

QUESTION 34: If multiple contracts are awarded for a group, can the Government negotiate with a single contractor for a task order?

RESPONSE: See FAR 16.505(b).

QUESTION 35: What equipment will the Government provide and what is the contractor s liability if they use it?

RESPONSE: See response to Question 12.

QUESTION 36: If work is slowed by the failure of Government provided equipment, how will the contractor be paid for the additional hours of work?

RESPONSE: See FAR Clause 52.212-4, paragraph (c), (d), (f). If the Government causes a delay that results in costs to the contractor, a request for an adjustment may be submitted, as with any other contract with the Government.

QUESTION 37: Will the contractor be required to provide supplies, materials, equipment or other services than direct labor?

RESPONSE: See response to question 12.

QUESTION 38: If supplies, material, equipment or other services are provided by the contractor how will the cost be accounted for in a task order.

RESPONSE: Costs will not be accounted for, the firm's will propose a firm fixed price for the task order proposal request. At this time, no other type of task order is contemplated.

QUESTION 39: Can a task order be modified unilaterally by the Government to increase or decrease labor hours or other items?

RESPONSE: The task orders are not expected to be "labor hours." See Clause 52.212-4, paragraph (c)

QUESTION 40: How will the cost of mobilization/demobilization be accounted for?

RESPONSE: The task orders will be competitive. The % figure proposed for the contract provides a basis for the wages plus fringe benefits. Any other required costs/charges will be part of the contractor's offered price.

QUESTION 41: Will this be a CAS covered contract?

RESPONSE: 9903.201-1 exempts commercial items from CAS. The contracting officer has determined this to be a commercial service.

QUESTION 42: Is the solicitation due 21 calendar days or 21 working days after it was advertised? The solicitation was advertised May 26, 1998. Is the due date June 16, 1998? If not, what is the due date?

RESPONSE: The solicitation was advertised May 21, 1998. The amendment with the first questions and responses was in the May 26, 1998 issue. The responses are due June 9, 1998.

QUESTION 43: If DRMO employees are replaced, will they have the right of first refusal.

RESPONSE: If any task order is issued under OMB Circular A-76, all clauses and provisions pertinent thereto will be used.

QUESTION 44: What are the existing Union agreements the Government has entered into that the contractor will have to abide by?

RESPONSE: The contractor will have to abide by the terms and conditions of the contract and of the task order.

QUESTION 45: For each DRMO, please list by labor category existing staffing levels.

RESPONSE: We do not know what facilities will require services, and we anticipate that the services will be based on a performance work statement, so this is not relevant.

QUESTION 46: For each DRMO, please list approved staffing levels.

RESPONSE: See response to question 45.

QUESTION 47: Will contractors be required to provide staffing levels above existing staffing levels?

RESPONSE: See response to question 12 and 39.

QUESTION 48: The reference to FAR 52.213-3 appears to be a mistake. Do you intend to reference FAR 52.212-3 instead?

RESPONSE: FAR 52.212-3 should be referenced.

QUESTION 49: Please provide estimated quantities that will be ordered by labor category for each contract period for each zone.

RESPONSE: See response to question 12 and 14.

QUESTION 50: Please provide a cross reference to which Service Contract Act Wage Description applies to each labor category referenced in the solicitation.

RESPONSE: These will not be known for certain until the issue of a task order proposal request. However, the index for DoL definitions is at www.dol.gov/dol/esa/public/regs/compliance/whd/wage/main.htm . Also please response to question 19.

QUESTION 51: Are the DoL Wage Determinations based on the Service Contract Act or Davis Bacon?

RESPONSE: We expect only Service Contract Act.

QUESTION 52: What will be the basis for applying our percentage markup in the associated management support labor description? There will be no DoL wage determination to use for professional/management labor.

RESPONSE: We listed the known labor categories. If we were sure of all labor categories to be used, we would list them. Sometimes there is no wage determination for labor categories within an area. This does not mean DRMS expects services to be free. Firms would have to base an offer for such an area on local market prices. As stated in the solicitation, the percentage is the BASIS. It does not state it is all inclusive.

QUESTION 53: Clearly define the evaluation factors for task order awards.

RESPONSE: These will be stated on each task order proposal request. At this time, we do not know which will be used for each, and what will be of the most importance. Without a work statement, it is not possible to accurately describe the evaluation factors for past performance and technical.

QUESTION 54: Will a contractor be given individual past performance ratings for each Group they bid or will a single rating be used?

RESPONSE: Each proposal submitted will receive a rating.